

Greenways
Knockholt
near Sevenoaks
Kent

7-049 1966
News from Gypsy People

November 2nd., 1966

Dear Roger,

I'm sorry that we haven't been in contact with you for such a long time, though we've heard bits of news through Richard and Hephzibah.

Well, as you'll note from the address, we're now in England. We're squatting on Lord Stanhope's land and have just been discovered by his gamekeeper and expect eviction any day. But as we're looking for a flat in London anyway, it doesn't make much difference. Venri has started her full-time course at the Montessori training college in Hampstead and can't travel up so far each day.

Being here, we're very much mixed up with all kinds of Gypsy people. There's a rent strike started at Edenbridge because the Council haven't emptied the cesspool for months and a hundred people are without sanitation, though paying 25/- per family. There's a plan for a mass break-in invasion into the site at Star Lane, Bromley, which the Council closed after the summer - this is being led by Soli Brown. And on or about Human Rights Day the International Gypsy Committee is calling a meeting of Gypsies and travellers in London to start a national association. This will link about 1,000 families all over England, Scotland, Wales and England initially and, supported by the liaison committee which Richard has set up should make some headway, we hope.

I expect you are up to your eyes in studies but drop us a line sometime. Have you seen any travellers down your way? We're sending off a circular in two weeks time about this meeting in London. Could you get any to travellers around Southampton or give us any names and addresses. We'll understand if you can't do anything at the moment but we've got to alert all possible help.

We were over in France for a few days and became "parents of honour" of Vanko Rouda's son Manuel. There are big things stirring on the Continent and they're trying to get UN recognition of the problem as a world-wide concern.